(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report pertains to the happenings on 4th February, 1987 at the Railways Computerised Reservation Centre at New Delhi, alleging that there were long queues and touts were still operating with the connivance of the Railway staff.

After installation of the Computerised reservation system, the average service time per requisition slip has come down to 2 minutes as against 4.5 minutes in the manual system. Consequently, the queue lengths have also come down from 35-40 persons under the manual system to 10-12 persons under the computerised system.

During the period 2nd to 5th February, 1987, a bigger computer was commissioned with a view to computerise reservations in Delhi area for a number of additional trains. During the process of switch over, the number of terminals got reduced. This resulted in some increase in the waiting time and the queue lengths. Normalcy was, however, restored from 6-2-1987.

As regards operation of touts, surprise checks including decoy checks are being conducted by the Commerical Officers, Vigilance Organisation and Anti-fraud organisation of the Railways. The checks conducted by the Northern Railway against the activities of touts are yielding good results and during the period 1.10.86 to 15.2.87, 42 touts were apprehended and handed over for prosecution to the police under Section 114-A of the Indian Railways Act.

Seizure of Stolen Garuda Stone Statue From Jaganath Temple

183. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 which became operative in 1976, special units have not yet been set up except in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the number of instances when police have organised raids or seizures without any warrant from Magistrates as provided for under the said Act;

(c) whether Garuda stone statue stolen from Jagannath Temple, has since been seized by authorities; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) There is no provision under Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 for setting up of special units in different States and Union Territories. According to available information, cases relating to antiquities are handled by concerned local Police/CID Crime Branch in all the States except Tamil Nadu and Kerala where separate cells have been established for this purpose. Section 165 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 authorizes a police officer for search etc. on reliable information about any suspected or stolen property and, therefore, the question of unauthorised instances of search, seizure etc. does not arise.

(c) and (d) Garuda stone idol stolen from Gundicha temple, Puri in November, 1985 was seized by the C.B.I. on 25.1.1987 and one Puran Chand was arrested and from whose possession the idol was recovered.